

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 10, 2012

Contact: **LuAnn Canipe** tel: (202) 225-3032 or 6089/ email: luann.canipe@mail.house.gov

Republican Cuts in the Reconciliation Bill Harm Working Families

Washington, D.C. – The House voted today on a Republican plan for budget reconciliation under the Budget Control Act (BCA). This reconciliation is more of the same misguided approach to balance the budget by refusing to end tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, Big Oil, and companies that ship jobs overseas while shredding our vital social safety net.

According to the Campaign for Children, currently one in five children lives in poverty. The reconciliation will end the Social Services Block Grant which could result in 1.7 million children losing access to protective services; 451,000 children being denied foster care; and 640,000 children losing child abuse prevention services. The change in the Child Tax Credit could result in 5.5 million children and their families losing access to this benefit. The proposed health care cuts for at least 300,000 children on Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid coverage would have a devastating impact on children's health. The plan also:

- Reduces food and nutrition assistance to every household receiving SNAP benefits almost immediately – more than 20 million beneficiaries are kids.
- Denies nearly 300,000 children school meals, on top of losing the benefits that provide food at home.
- Repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which supports things like cancer screenings for women and immunizations. 326,000 women would not get the breast cancer screenings and 284,000 women would not get the cervical cancer screenings they are slated to receive in FY 2013.

These cuts are lopsided, at the expense of the most vulnerable among us. Republicans have an ideological refusal to raise any taxes, even if it means closing loopholes or asking the richest of the rich to pay the same taxes they did under the Clinton Administration. Instead of reducing subsidies to large agribusinesses, they cut food assistance programs which go mostly to children and the elderly. In addition, they refuse to consider any cuts to Defense, including those cuts recommended by the Secretary of Defense and our generals.

Additionally, this reconciliation bill contains several gifts to Wall Street including threatening funding for the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and taking away the ability to shut down failing large financial firms without another taxpayer bailout.

Democrats support a balanced approach that creates jobs, expands opportunity, reduces the deficit, and protects the health and economic security of America's families—and will continue to stand up against these dangerous GOP attacks.

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